UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE

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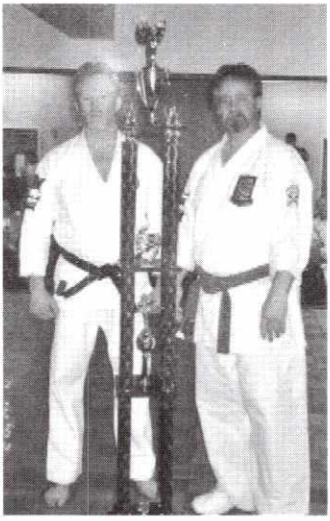
Directors: James H. Hawkes & Dr. David Jordan

FOUR BLACK BELTS HOPING TO DEFEND THEIR TITLES AT THE 2004 USKA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Competitors from all over the United States, and from various nations around the globe will be converging on New Orleans for the 2004 USKA World Championships. Four of them, **Guy Holtzman**, **Eddie Bethea, Jr.**, **Katy Hoogerwerf**, & **Donnie Michael**, will be hoping to defend the World Championship titles they earned in 2003.



Guy Holtzman & Bruce Heilman

Look for Guy Holtzman of Palm Springs, California in the Kata Division as he hopes to defend his Kata Title. Mr. Holtzman is the USKA Pacific Regional Director and holds the Pacific Regional Championships each January or February in Palm Springs.

Eddie Bethea, Jr. of Kokomo, Indiana holds the 1983, 1993, 1994, and 2003 Kumite Title, so keep an eye out for him when it's time to spar. After reading the article in the last *Bushido Bulletin*, "*Eddie Bethea: Stepping Back, But Not Bowing Out*," we are not certain whether or not Mr. Bethea will be defending his title this year, but you can be sure that even if he's not competing in sparring, you'll find him close by the action when the sparring begins.

Katy Hoogerwerf, one of Joe Dupaquier's Black Belts, will be traveling from Tucson, Arizona

to defend her Kumite Title. Ms. Hoogerwerf has been training with Johnny Linebarger while living in the Tucson area. Keep an eye out for her in the women's sparring division.

Donnie Michael, a student of Eddie Bethea, and also from Kokomo, Indiana, has held the Kobudo Title four times. Watch for Mr. Michael during the Finals on Sunday evening.

Joe Dupaquier, Eddie Bethea, & Guy Holtzman

The 2004 USKA World Championships' Schedule is filled with great competition beginning on Thursday afternoon, July 8th, with Continuous Sparring. That evening the Rules Seminar will offered at 7 pm for those wanting to be certified as Referees and Judges, or renew their certification. The Score Keeper and Time Keeper Seminar will also be offered at this time.

Joe Dupaquier, Katy Hoogerwerf, & Guy Holtzman

Tournament Registration begins Friday morning, July 9th, at 8 am, with Koshiki and Musical Forms competition starting at 10 am. Competition continues at 1 pm with weapons competition and at 2:30 pm with Team Kumite and Chanbara (padded weapons sparring) competition. The Alliance Hall of Fame meeting will be Friday evening at 8 pm. Hall of Famers – don't miss it, we have much to discuss.

Registration will continue on Saturday, July 10th, at 8 am. Kata competitors will enjoy a full day of competition, camaraderie, and awesome kata. That evening, at 7:30 pm will be the National Awards Ceremony. At the National Awards Ceremony, the top ten competitors in each National Points Division will be recognized for their accomplishments by being presented with a National Certificate. The top three competitors in each National Points Division will be recognized with a National Points Trophy. This is always a fun and festive event with everyone dressing up for the occasion.

Registration again continues on Sunday morning, July 11th, at 8 am and ends at Noon. Today is the big day for all sparring competitors as all individual sparring competition takes place today. Speed, accuracy, and control

are the words for the day as each competitor tries out new techniques and relies on some old ones.

Sunday evening is the highlight of the World Championships as the World Championship Finals begin at 7 pm. Don't miss this evening's finals for Kata (Forms), Black Belt Kumite (Sparring), Kobudo (Weapons), and Black Belt Team Kumite. The finals are a great mix of talented, outstanding competition and entertaining, informative demonstrations. We are very pleased to have a demonstration by Fumio Demura and two of his students. (Always a highlight!)

Donnie Michael & Bruce Heilman

Hopefully, if you're attending the World Championships, you've given yourself enough time to enjoy the numerous sites while visiting "The Big Easy." Since the tournament hotel is the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, enjoy the Riverwalk Mall, Harrah's Casino, and the Aquarium of the Americas just steps from your doorstep. Blocks from the French Quarter, the Hilton Hotel has three restaurants and lounges, gift shops, pools, and its own entrance to the Riverwalk Mall. Call the Hilton at 1-800-HILTONS, or 1-504-584-3999 by June 16th to make your reservation and secure our special group rates. Be sure to mention the United States Karate Alliance World Championships group when making your reservations.

Southwest Airlines and Budget Rent A Car are also offering special group rates for our attendees. Call Southwest Airlines Group and Meeting Reservations at 1-800-433-5368 and reference our I.D. Code #L0366 to make your reservations. To receive your special group rate on your rental car, call Budget Rent A Car at 1-800-772-3773 and use our Convention Discount Code #U064638.

We'll see ya'll soon in "The Big Easy" for the 2004 USKA World Championships!

* SOUTHWEST REGIONALS * SEMINARS * BALLOON FIESTA

The 2004 Southwest Regionals in Albuquerque, New Mexico is shaping up to be a great event this Fall. Scheduled for October 8-10, 2004, this year's Southwest Regional Championships will include Ju-Jitsu and Weapons Seminars by Bruce and Ann-Marie Heilman, Kobudo Testing, the International Balloon Fiesta Mass Ascension, and the Southwest Regional Tournament. Hosted by James H. Hawkes, this karate-packed, fun-filled weekend is the perfect Fall Break in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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